

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /006 R

66608

DRAFTED BY: S/S-O: MTANNER:WLT

APPROVED BY: S/S-O: MTANNER

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P 291713Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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FOLL REPEAT BANGKOK 9827 ACTION SECSTATE INFO KUALA LUMPUR,
SECDEF, CINCPAC, USIA WASHDC, COMUSMACTHAI 29 MAY 75:

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 9827

KUALA LUMPUR PLEASE PASS TO ASST. SECRETARY HABIB

USIA FOR IEA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, MILI

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT PRAMOT PRESS STATEMENT MAY 29

1. PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT PRAMOT TOLD NEWSMEN TODAY THAT
SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS NEGLECTED SOUTHEAST ASIA.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER WAS RESPONDING TO A PRESS QUERY REGARDING
AN ARTICLE IN THE MAY 30 EDITION OF FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC
REVIEW, WHICH CONTAINED THE FOLLOWING PASSAGE: "ASKED ABOUT
THE THAI GOVERNMENT'S COMPLAINTS OVER THE WAY IN WHICH THE US
WAS VILLATING ITS SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE MAYAGUEZ, KISSINGER
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TOLD REPORTERS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT PAY ATTENTION TO THAI

POLITICIANS, BUT RATHER TO THE THAI MILITARY. THE MILITARY WERE HAPPY ENOUGH FOR THE US TO USE TAPAO AND THAT WAS WHAT MATTERED, HE SAID PRIVATELY."

3. FEW REPORTERS WERE PRESENT WHEN THE PRIME MINISTER RESPONDED TO THAT PASSAGE, AND HIS REMARKS WERE NOT RECORDED. LATER, AT THE REQUEST OF OTHER NEWSMEN, AN OFFICIAL OF THE PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPARTMENT TOLD THE PRESS (ACCORDING TO A USIS TRANSLATION OF THE RECORDING): BEGIN TEXT.

PRIME MINISTER M.R. KUKRIT PRAMOT GAVE A NEWS CONFERENCE TO REPORTERS WAITING TO PUT QUESTIONS TO HIM AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE ON THE MORNING OF MAY 29, 1975 ON THE INTERVIEW SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER GAVE TO THE FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW -- AN INTERVIEW PUBLISHED IN THE LATEST ISSUE. IT IS ON THE ISSUE OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES FROM THAILAND, AND IN THE INTERVIEW DR. KISSINGER STATED THAT NO ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO POLITICIANS, BUT ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO THAI MILITARY OFFICIALS, WHO ARE HAPPY AT THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES IN THAILAND. THE PRIME MINISTER STATED IN ANSWERING: "IF HE DOESN'T WORRY ABOUT THAI POLITICIANS, IT DOESN'T MATTER. I WILL MEET MILITARY OFFICIALS NOW. IT ISN'T AT ALL TRUE THAT THAI MILITARY OFFICIALS ARE HAPPY AT THE PRESENCE OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES IN THAILAND. GEN. KRIT SIVARA AND ALL MILITARY OFFICIALS ARE OF THE SAME VIEW AS THE GOVERNMENT IN EVERY WAY. WHAT KISSINGER SAID IS HIS OWN STATEMENT. WHAT CAN BE EXPECTED FROM AMERICAN POLITICIANS? KISSINGER IS NOT INTERESTED IN ANYTHING AT ALL, EXCEPT HIS OWN COUNTRY AND THE MIDDLE EAST, BECAUSE HE IS A JEW. HE HAS NEVER SEVEN GLAANCEEDD AT SOUTHEAST ASIA. IN REGARD TO THE WITHDRAWAL OF AMERICAN MILITARY FORCES FROM THAILAND, THE AMERICAN BASE IN UBON WILL BE DEFINITELY CLOSED DOWN IN JUNE THIS YEAR. WE ARE MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR OUR MEN TO TAKE IT OVER." END TEXT.

4. THIS DISTORTION OF WHAT THE SECRETARY MIGHT HAVE TOLD REPORTERS, AS REPORTED IN THE FAR EAST ECONOMIC REVIEW, COULD BE USED BY SOME ELEMENTS HERE TO EXACERBATE THE CURRENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SITUATION, AND THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH ISSUE AN APPROPRIATE COMMENT OR DENIAL. WHITEHOUSE UNQUOTE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SOVEREIGNTY, PRESS CONFERENCES, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, MAYAGUEZ SS, MILITARY BASE AGREEMENTS, TOSEC 20100
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MartinML
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE124914
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O: MTANNER:WLT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750188-0351
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975058/aaaaahdm.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MartinML
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <19 NOV 2003 by MartinML>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRIME MINISTER KUKRIT PRAMOT PRESS STATEMENT MAY 29
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, TH, XC, US, (KISSINGER, HENRY A), (KUKRIT PRAMOT)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006